

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
SAJ-01 EB-08 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W  
-----101837Z 127774 /50

R 101806Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5531  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02582

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VN, GW  
SUBJECT: FRG RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

1. A REVIEW OF FRG POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM, INCLUDING  
PROVISION OF AID, WAS CARRIED OUT DURING THE CONSULTA-  
TIONS IN BONN OF THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN HANOI. WHILE  
THE AMBASSADOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS, AS WELL AS THE  
COMMENTS OF THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE FONOFF-HAVE NOT  
YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE TOP LEVEL OF THE FONOFF, IT  
APPEARS AS IF THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR POLICY CHANGE.

2. AN INFORMED FONOFF SOURCE OUTLINED THE PROSPECTIVE  
POLICY TO BE:

A. THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS  
MADE IN THE BELIEF THAT IT IS USEFUL TO BE PRESENT  
IN HANOI. FRG EXPERIENCE SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
RELATIONS HAS BORNE OUT THE CORRECTNESS OF THIS  
DECISION. THE VIETNAMESE ARE ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP  
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RELATIONS WITH THE WEST IN ORDER TO REDUCE THEIR  
DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR AND CHINA. THEY ARE ALSO  
PREOCCUPIED WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THEIR  
COUNTRY AND ARE NOT TRYING TO EXPORT REVOLUTION. IT  
IS IN THE WEST'S INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE BOTH OF  
THESE VIETNAMESE POLICIES.

B. PROVISION OF AID IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN A MEANINGFUL POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH VIETNAM. THE AID IS THERE: APPROXIMATELY \$32 MILLION (DM 80 MILLION -- 40 MILLION FOR NORTH AND SOUTH EACH -- MINUS APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION WHICH WAS DISBURSED TO THE SOUTH BEFORE IT FELL). ADDITIONALLY, VIETNAM WANTS AND NEEDS THE AID. THEREFORE, IT WILL BE RESTRAINED FROM FOLLOWING POLICIES WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE ITS PROVISION.

C. EXTENSION OF ANY AID TO VIETNAM WOULD HAVE TO BE PART OF A GENERAL RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, WHICH INCLUDE EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY OF GERMAN FIRMS IN THE SOUTH, DEFAULTED DEBTS OF FORMER SOUTHERN GOVERNMENT, AND USE OR DISPOSAL OF OFFICIAL FRG PROPERTY IN SAIGON. WHILE THE FRG OFFICIALLY REJECTS A QUID PRO QUO APPROACH TO RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES, A COMMITMENT BY VIETNAM TO THEIR SETTLEMENT IS A KEY ELEMENT IN ANY CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION OF AID.

D. ANOTHER KEY ELEMENT IS GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH THE FONOFF BELIEVES WOULD BE STRONGLY AGAINST EXTENSION OF AID IN THE ABSENCE OF PROGRESS ON OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

E. THE CHIEF REASON FOR THE FRG'S PRESENCE IN VIETNAM IS POLITICAL. THEREFORE, IF AID WOULD SERVE

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POLITICAL ENDS, IT SHOULD BE PROVIDED. WHEN (NOT  
IF) IT IS PROVIDED, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN IN A STEP-  
BY-STEP PROCESS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT DEVELOP-  
MENTS WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE AID. ALSO, SOME OF THE  
FRG'S EC PARTNERS ALREADY EXTEND AID TO VIETNAM AND  
THE EC ITSELF MAY BE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION.

3. WHILE VIETNAM HAS MADE ITS INTEREST IN AID CLEAR,  
IT HAS NOT PRESSED RECENTLY FOR DISBURSEMENT OF THE DM  
70 MILLION. RATHER, IT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE  
DECISION OF WHEN TO EXTEND THIS AID IS A PROBLEM  
FOR THE FRG.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, THE VIETNAMESE CHARGE CONTINUES TO  
DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB WITH HIS EXCELLENT GERMAN WHICH HE  
LEARNED AS A STUDENT IN THE GDR. VIETNAM HAS STILL NOT  
NAMED AN AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG IN SPITE OF PROMISING  
TO DO SO AS SOON AS THE PARTY CONGRESS WAS COMPLETED  
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LAST DECEMBER.

5. THUS, THE PACE OF FRG-VIETNAM RELATIONS REMAINS  
MEASURED, WITH NEITHER SIDE PRESSING FOR PROGRESS.  
THERE IS A MUTUAL INTEREST IN CLOSER RELATIONS WHICH  
SHOULD HAVE AN EFFECT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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